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# Editorial Discussion & Analysis (EDA)

23rd & 24th August 2021

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### Note -

- **The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.**
- **Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy's YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday's Newspaper .**

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# 1. Indian Economy

## 1.1. Freer Trade (Indian Express)

- Context- FTAs vital for reviving Growth.

### Current Scenario (Post Cancellation of US- India FTA)

- Presently the Government is working towards precursors for Free trade agreements (FTA) in which **tariff barriers are lowered on a limited set of goods – with Australia and the UK.**
- FTA with US is unlikely to materialise in the near term, there is “positive momentum” for **signing trade deals with the EU and the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) nations.**
- **Need of the Hour is embrace of freer trade, and a shift away from the protectionist impulses that seem to have guided recent government policies.**

### Way Forward

- India must not turn it's back on the enormous benefits flowing from free trade amidst the chorus of Aatmanirbharta.
- Raising tariffs to protect domestic industry leads to inefficient outcomes.
- **Exports can serve as an important driver of growth keeping in mind that private consumption and investment likely to remain subdued.**
- **India's overall exports (merchandise and services) in the first four months of the Current FY stood at \$204.97 billion, up 47.87% over the same period last year, and 15.35% over the year before that.**

## 2. Science & Technology

### 2.1. An Irrational Turn (Indian Express)

- Context- Encourage Scientific Temperament

#### State Of Science Index- Key Findings

- **90% of adults in India surveyed said that science is bringing hope for the future, driving hope for a better world to live in.**
- A demographically representative sample of 1,000 citizens, 18 years and older, were interviewed this year in February and March from each of 17 countries (Including India)
- **Science was defined as “the process of pursuing knowledge about the world through logically gathering, observing, experimenting.**
- Vast majority (85 per cent) also believe that society will be negatively impacted if science is not valued.

#### Killing the Scientific Spirit by Irrational thought-

- Anyone who questions such decisions or motives is branded an anti- national.
- One is labeled as an ‘Anti National’ Liberal if questions are raised on cosmetic surgery thriving in ancient India exemplified in Ganesha with an elephant head and we flew airplanes long before the Wright brothers did.
- **We are propagating unscientific thought and establishing pillars of pseudoscience like introduction by IGNOU of a Master’s Course in Astrology (Jyotish)**
- A scientific process follows making predictions arising logically from the hypothesis, collecting empirical data to test these predictions. Astrology does not follow this process.
- **Almost 50 years ago, in 1975, a group of 186 scientists, including many Nobel laureates published a signed objection to astrology.**

#### Conclusion

- As per SOSI 91 % agree that the world needs more people pursuing careers related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- By introducing pseudoscientific degree like Astrology courses our citizens will become more irrational.
- Pivot of national prosperity is science and the scientific spirit of its citizens.

**The State of Science Index (SOSI) is a third-party, independent research study commissioned by 3M (American MNC) and conducted annually for the past four years to track attitudes towards science.**

**The 2021 study was fielded from February to March and includes 17 countries - making it the largest data pool to date. It is the second edition of SOSI conducted during the pandemic.**

## 2.2. Focusing on Diseases Sidelined by Covid 19 (The Hindu)

- Context- Disruption caused due to Covid in treating NCDs.

### Issue

- **71% of all deaths worldwide occur due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer.**
- One out of every four deaths occurs due to cardiovascular diseases, especially among younger patients.
- Premature loss of life due to NCDs in the age group of 30- 69 years is also very high among Indians.
- **National Health Mission launched the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke, in 2010.**
- **Focus on strengthening infrastructure, promoting good health, human resource development, early diagnosis.**

### How did the Disruption cause by Covid Impact in treatment of NCDs?

- (WHO) survey conducted in May 2020 among 155 countries found that low- income countries were the most affected by this disruption.
- **In most countries, staff working in the area of NCDs were reassigned to support patients with COVID-19.**
- Shortage of medicines, diagnostics and technologies were the main reasons for discontinuing services.
- **NCD services also got more disrupted as countries moved to the stage of community transmission from the stage of sporadic COVID-19 cases.**

### Way Forward

- **A positive impact of the pandemic has been that two-thirds of the countries are now collecting data on the number of COVID-19 patients who also have a NCD.**
- Encouraging of Telemedicine further.
- Campaigns on maintaining a healthy lifestyle need innovation.
- Access to essential NCD medicines and basic health technologies in all primary healthcare facilities is essential to ensure that those in need receive treatment and counselling.
- **Screening for NCDs at the grassroots level.**
- **Paradigm Shift in Governance- Effective & Participatory leadership with Strong Vision & Communication is essential to tackle the silent epidemic transition of to NCDs.**

## 3. Judicial Reforms

### 3.1. Breaking the Logjam, Passing over the baton (The Hindu)

- Context- Collegium Showing the Way for Appointments
- **Supreme Court Collegium led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) recommended/selected as many as 9 persons at one go to be appointed to the apex court.**
- SC now having its near full strength will ease the pressure on it considerably.
- **Selection of judges for appointment to the higher courts, particularly the top court is a complex exercise.**
- Selection of suitable judges has become most arduous in as much as the members of the Collegium have to take extra care to ensure that the process of selection remains transparent.
- **CJI being the head of the Collegium, the job of selecting as many as nine judges for appointment to the Supreme Court was done admirably well.**

#### India's Compelling Realities

- India is a country of bewildering diversity.
- **State cannot ignore the Plurality in our Society while identifying people to man its various organs.**
- **Overriding concern of the Supreme judiciary is to ensure equal opportunities to all classes of people.**
- Be they backward classes or scheduled castes or scheduled tribes or minorities or women.
- It is Expected that judicial administration is also participated in by the outstanding and meritorious candidates belonging to all sections of the society.
- The citizens of the country look up to the Supreme Court for complete justice.
- **While selecting a judge to adorn the Bench, the fundamental consideration should be his/her ability to do complete justice.**

#### Conclusion

- Selection of 3 women judges, with one of them having a chance to head the top court.
- A Judge belonging to the Scheduled Caste and one from a backward community 9 selected persons belonging to 9 different States.
- Time and again SC has emphasised the need for maintaining transparency and an openness with regard to the norms of selection transparent.
- Logjam of 22 months has been finally broken by the Collegium led by the CJI through a pragmatic approach.
- In a population of 1.3 billion, to select just nine suitable persons to man the highest judiciary is not without difficulty.

## 4. Environment

### 4.1. Tauktae, Yaas & Planning for the Next (The Hindu)

- Context- Pre Monsoon Cyclones impact & Mitigation

#### Issue

- **Increasing sea surface temperatures in the northern Indian Ocean** and the geo-climatic conditions in India have led to a rise in the frequency of devastating cyclones.
- Every Year 5-6 tropical cyclones are formed in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea; of these, two to three turn severe.
- **The World Bank and the United Nations (2010) estimate that around 200 million city residents would be exposed to storms and earthquakes by 2050 in India.**
- Between 1891 and 2020, out of the 313 cyclones crossing India's eastern and western coasts, **130 were classified as severe cyclonic storm.**

#### Economic cost of Cyclones

- **Due to Tauktae and Yaas, economic losses stood at ₹320 billion (U.S. \$4.3 billion).**
- 1999-2020- 12,388 people were killed, and the damage was estimated at \$32,615 million.
- **Cyclones are the 2nd most expensive in terms of the costs incurred in damage and 3rd most lethal disaster in India after earthquakes and floods.**
- India lost around 2% of GDP and 15% of total revenue over 1999- 2020.
- **Global Climate Risk Index report 2021, India ranks the 7th worst-hit country globally in 2019 due to the frequent occurrence of extreme weather-related event.**

#### Way Forward

- Improve the cyclone warning system and **revamp disaster preparedness measures.**
- Government must widen the cover under shelter-belt plantations and help **regenerate mangroves** in coastal regions.
- Long-term mitigation measures, including building cyclone-resilient infrastructure.
- Installing disaster-resilient power infrastructure in the coastal district.
- Centre and the States concerned is essential to collectively design disaster mitigation measures.

## 5. Polity & Governance

### 5.1. More Scrutiny, Less Speed (Indian Express)

- Context- What is the Rush?

#### Concern- Misuse of Ordinance Making powers

- Over the years, successive governments have exploited the spirit of this constitutional provision. Governments have promulgated an ordinance a few days before a parliamentary session.
- Bringing in law through the ordinance route also **bypasses parliamentary scrutiny**.
- Legislature should rigorously examine a hurriedly-enacted law to ensure its **intended purpose is not compromised**.
- **It is observed that parliamentary committees rarely scrutinise bills to replace ordinances because this may take time and defeat the issuing of the ordinance.**
- Evidence suggests that wherever the bill goes to the Parliamentary Committee proper scrutiny is done.
- **Recent Examples include- GST, Consumer Protection, Insolvency and Bankruptcy, Labour Codes, Surrogacy, and DNA Technology have benefited from parliamentary committee's scrutiny**

#### Way Forward

- **India needs a robust lawmaking process, one that does not bend to executive urgency or succumb to political expediency.**
- All its bills should go through pre-legislative scrutiny before being brought to Parliament.
- A simple debate on the floor of Parliament should not be enough for the legislative institution to stamp its approval.
- **Mandatory scrutiny of bills by parliamentary committees should become the rule and not the exception.**

#### Conclusion

- **Hurriedly-made and inadequately-scrutinised laws hardly ever achieve their desired outcomes.**
- Cost of a poorly-made law is in the loss of opportunity to an entire nation that has to comply with



## 6. International Relations

### 6.1. On Kabul, Delhi Must wait (Indian Express)

- Context- While Pakistan is celebrating Taliban, India Must show Strategic Patience!

#### **Suggestions for South Block**

- Geography is also the reason Rawalpindi and Delhi pursue vastly different strategies towards Afghanistan.
- **Masterly inactivity” is not a passive strategy. It recognises the futility of trying to control Afghanistan**
- **Conserving one’s scarce resources and deploying them at the most appropriate moment and location.**
- Delhi’s strategy seeks to strengthen Kabul’s autonomy vis-à-vis Rawalpindi and facilitate Afghanistan’s economic modernisation., while Pakistan has quest for hegemony over Taliban
- **Strategic patience coupled with political empathy for Afghan people, and an active engagement will continue to keep Delhi relevant in Kabul’s internal and external evolution.**

#### Question for the Day

**Evaluate the Role of Civil society in India in the last 74 years since Independence. Enumerate recent instances where because of engagement of Civil society, the Political executive was held accountable. (250 words)**